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CONTENTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS	3-15
BIRD BANDING SUMMARY	15-18
LIBRARY MOVED	18
BIRDING AREAS OF IOWA	19-24
SPRING CONVENTION	24
FIELD REPORTS	25-29
GENERAL NOTES	29-30
BOOK REVIEWS	30-32
REQUEST FOR GULL REPORTS	32

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CHRISTMAS COUNT



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With a total of 29 counts meeting the uniform restrictions in regard to area and time in the field, the 1970 Christmas Bird Census in Iowa must be regarded the most successful ever. The record total of 290 observers (counting some individuals several times) met with relatively agreeable weather, but were unable to reach the remarkable totals of 1969. The state list totaled 111 species (four below 1969), and as usual Davenport led the individual counts with 74 species. Following Davenport in success were Clinton (61 species), Red Rock Refuge (a new and very promising count) (58 species), Cedar Rapids (57 species), and Princeton-Camanche (54 species).

Two general trends characterize the findings of this year's census. The most promising of these was the great increase in hawks. Figure 1 shows the 1970 totals and compares them to 1969 (which seemed to be a relatively average year). As can be seen, the Red-shouldered Hawk seems to be recovering from its drastic decline of the sixties. No explanations are being offered for any of these increases, but it is heartening to know that this many hawks have survived the interference both of man's unscrupulous shooting and his often damaging environmental practices.

Among those ornithological occurrences that are difficult to explain is the fluctuation from year to year in the number of the so-called "winter finches." In great contrast to last year, the 1970 census stands out as one of the poorest ever for these birds. Figure 2 shows some of the most striking comparisons between 1969 and 1970 in this respect. Of interest here, along with the decline of the more frivolous migratory finches, is the marked decrease of the Cardinal, Am. Goldfinch, and Slate-colored Junco, three of our more regular finch species.

Aside from these two general observations, several other species underwent population fluctuations worthy of note. Most striking was the decline in Red-breasted Nuthatches to 27 from last year's 116. Goose numbers were large, with 75,000 Snow and Blue Geese seen on the Shenandoah count and 1500 Canadas seen at the Red Rock Refuge. Golden-crowned Kinglets declined considerably, while the Cedar Waxwing was somewhat more scarce than last year. Meadowlark numbers (counting all forms together) were down from 757 last year to only 292.

A general increase in numbers was seen among the owls, probably due to increased use of tape recorders. All of the resident owl species increased and the high Short-eared Owl populations of last year were repeated. The Ames count once again lead the state in owl totals, with three parties using tape-recorders to census 55 owls of the three major species.

Although the purpose of the Christmas Bird Census is a numerative count of the birds, we all are interested in finding rare birds, and 1970 had its share of these. Shenandoah was perhaps the most fortunate location, as count participants there had the pleasure to find the Ferruginous Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and Townsend's

Solitaire. The Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at two locations while the Glaucous Gull appeared at three. A Turkey Vulture was seen at Muscatine, while the Broad-winged Hawk appeared at both Davenport and McKain's Access. Perhaps the most cooperative of the rarities was a Red-shafted Flicker that spent the holiday season at a feeder operated by Jim Rod, compiler of the Ames count.

This year, for the first time, printed rules were sent to all compilers and the only counts accepted were those that complied with these rules. Unfortunately, several potentially good counts had to be excluded from the compilation. Although this is a shame, it must once again be stressed that for the Christmas Bird Census to have any comparative value over the years counts must be run with at least a minimum of conformity. If 29 counts can be run successfully according to these rules, there is no reason why they all cannot be.

Figure 1. Numbers of hawks seen on the 1969 and 1970 Christmas Bird Censuses in Iowa.

Species	1969	1970	Difference
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	9	+6
Red-tailed Hawk	219	351	+132
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	12	+6
Rough-legged Hawk	40	109	+69
Marsh Hawk	46	141	+95

Figure 2. Numbers of some selected finches seen on the 1969 and 1970 Christmas Bird Censuses in Iowa.

Species	1969	1970	Difference
Cardinal	2,740	2,299	-441
Evening Grosbeak	13	3	-10
Purple Finch	410	267	-143
Common Redpoll	767	4	-763
Pine Siskin	273	8	-265
American Goldfinch	1,974	848	-1,126
Red Crossbill	218	21	-197
Slate-colored Junco	12,915	6,166	-6,749

1. AKRON (8 mile circle around Bryant farm including roadsides, weedy creeks, fields and abandoned farm groves.) Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 15 - 20 F; wind 15 mph from NW; Sky almost clear. Six inches snow on ground evenly distributed. Observer, Eldon Bryant.

Other species seen during census period: Gray Partridge.

Comments: Nothing unusual seen. I was handicapped this year as I was recovering from an injury which made it impossible to do the great amount of walking to get a good count in this area. Birds were in little evidence but did seem to be around a few days later when it warmed up.

2. AMES (All points within fifteen mile diameter circle to include Ames, ISU Campus, State Forest Nursery, Soper's Mill Access, Skunk River and Squaw Creek bottoms.) Dec. 27; 3:50 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. Temp. 8 - 14 F; wind 0-15 mph from W-NW; clear to partly cloudy, ground covered with two inches old snow, Skunk River 40 percent open, some ditches open, all crops out, most farmland plowed. Observers 23 in 6 parties plus 7 feeder reports: Roger Birkeland, Kevin Bowen, Mr. and Mrs. Don Carr, John Faaborg, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hanselmann, Mr. and Mrs. George Ladd, Brian Ladd, Dr. and Mrs. Lotus Miller, Alan Miller, Douglas Miller, Jim Rod (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ken Russell, Duane Russell, Frank and Larry



"Use of the tape-recorder has increased the number of owls seen on Christmas counts. The Barred Owl (left), Great Horned Owl, and Screech Owl all respond quite readily, but the Long-eared Owl (right) must still be flushed from woods and thickets to be seen."



"Hawks, such as the Sharp-shinned Hawk (left), were found in greatly increased numbers during the 1970 Christmas Census, while many of the winter visitors, such as the Golden-crowned Kinglet (right), were less abundant than last year."

Schneider, Judy Totemeier, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wetteland.

Details of unusual observations: Rusty Blackbirds in feedlot with Starlings, immature or fall plumage. Winter Wren and Oregon Junco observed by Steve Hanselmann, all field marks noted. Red-shafted Flicker regular visitor at feeder, all field marks including both red mustache marks carefully noted and color movies obtained. One Brown Thrasher regular at feeder, other carefully observed along railroad track. Saw-whet Owl and Sharp-shinned Hawk well seen in area frequented often by both at other seasons.

Other species seen during census period: Rough-legged Hawk.

Comments: Winter finches nearly absent. Large owl totals were the result of three parties using tape recorded calls in the early morning and evening.

3. BURLINGTON (15-mile diameter circle, center $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of junction of highways 34 and 61, to include part of IAAP, Lock and Dam 18, and country roads around Burlington and neighboring Illinois). Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 20 - 26 F; wind 8 mph from N. Clear, no snow cover, Mississippi 10 percent ice covered. Observers (12) in 4 parties: Charles Fuller, Mrs. Lowell Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Helm, Jerome Jackson, John Lowther, Mrs. Ory Lowther, Peter Lowther (compiler), Jack McLane, Harrison Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Niemann, Virginia Sharar.

Other species seen during census period: Herring Gull, Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Red-winged Blackbird.

4. CEDAR FALLS (Black Hawk Park, Geo. Wyth State Park, Snag Creek, Robertson Sanctuary, fields north of Hudson, Iowa; airport north of Hiway 20). Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 17 - 26 F; wind 10-25 mph from West, partly cloudy, blowing snow, water areas partly open. Observers (8) in 4 parties: Mrs. Eleanor Corwin (compiler), Mr. Russell Hays, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hewitt, Mrs. Henry Immerzeel, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Knoll, Miss Lois Sherman.

Other species seen during census period: Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper.

5. CEDAR RAPIDS (15-mile diameter circle centered on Federal Building - same as in previous years.) Temp. 8 - 20 F; wind 5 mph from NW; Clear with light snow cover. Water 95 percent ice covered. Observers (21) in 5 parties: Mr. and Mrs. Lester Beam, Mr. and Mrs. James Clifton, Miss Esther Copp, Dr. Phyllis Ford, Dr. and Mrs. Karl Goellner, Mrs. Gus Groth, Eldon Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Layton, Miss Susan Layton, Mrs. Robert Liljedahl, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Rosenburg, Tom Rowold, Mrs. William K. Shaffer, Miss Lillian Serbousek (compiler), Mrs. Dayton Sippi, Miss Pat Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Rob Vane, Miss Myra Willis, Aldrich Zobac.

Details of unusual observations: The Orange-crowned Warbler was first seen feeding on an apple in an orchard by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane and Rob Vane. Soon it flew to the grasses below where it was observed in very good light for 20-30 minutes at a distance of as near as 6 feet, thus permitting close observation.

6. CLINTON (15 mile diameter circle centered on Elk River Junction, Iowa, same as previous years.) Jan. 2; 5:40 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. 22 - 34F; wind 5-10 mph from SW; Clear, partly cloudy in PM, ground bare, river 90 percent ice covered. Observers (17) in 5 parties: Elton Fawks, Mrs. Elynor King, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jonathan, Rev. and Mrs. Maurice Leshner, Jim Lewis, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shaw, Paul Van Nieuwenhuysse, Cris and Philip Vaughan, Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Lincoln Sparrow seen in good light at close range -- observers very familiar with this species from banding (JL,PP).

7. COUNCIL BLUFFS (Lake Manawa south to U. S. Highway No. 34 covered as part of 15 mile diameter - Omaha Bird Club). Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 30-40 F; wind 9 mph from N.W. Clear - no snow. Observers (12) in 2 parties: Rose Anderson, Rev. J. Dachauer, Art Fortmeyer, C. E. Heaney, Rev. T. Hoffman, Rosemary Holman, John Holmes, Glenn H. LeDioyt (compiler), Loren & Babs Padelford, E. Thomas Stacey, Mary Tremaine, Jim Zahler.

Details of unusual observations: Glaucous Gull, study by Dr. Mary Tremaine group. (Sounds implausible, but M.T. is an excellent birder and very familiar with shore and marine birds.)

7



Pied-billed Grebe																															
Great Blue Heron																															
Canada Goose																															
Snow Goose																															
Blue Goose																															
Mallard																															
Black Duck																															
Pintail																															
Green-winged Teal																															
Blue-winged Teal																															
American Widgeon																															
Wood Duck																															
Redhead																															
Canvasback																															
Lesser Scaup Duck																															
Common Goldeneye																															
Oldsquaw																															
Hooded Merganser																															
Common Merganser																															
Turkey Vulture																															
Sharp-shinned Hawk																															
Cooper's Hawk																															
Red-tailed Hawk																															
Broad-winged Hawk																															
Swainson's Hawk																															
Rough-legged Hawk																															
Ferruginous Hawk																															
Marsh Hawk																															
Bald Eagle																															
Perogine Falcon																															
Sparrow Hawk																															
Ruffed Grouse																															
Bobwhite																															
Ring-necked Pheasant																															
Gray Partridge																															
Wild Turkey																															
American Coot																															
Killdeer																															
Common Snipe																															
Glaucous Gull																															
Herring Gull																															
Ring-billed Gull																															
Mourning Dove																															
Screen Owl																															
Great Horned Owl																															

8. DAVENPORT (15 mile diameter circle, center former toll house of Memorial Bridge, same as previous years.) Dec. 27; 5:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temperature 15-25 F; wind 5-15 mph from NW. Clear, ground bare, river 70 percent ice covered. Observers (40) in 22 parties: Mrs. Fred Adams, Lewis Blevins, Marcella Campbell, Allen Carlson, Ed Carlton, Mrs. Jane Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Mark Deede, Dale Dickinson, Mr. Frank Drewes, Elton Fawks, Tom Frank, Philip Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Henry Goldschmidt, Mrs. C. Guthrie, Mark Henderson, Jim Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonckeck, Mrs. DonMcIver, Mrs. Frank Marquis, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Don Price, David Rader, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rodl, Ernie Sadler, Mrs. Louis Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. L. Swanson, Don Swenson, Philip and Cris Vaughan, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Other species seen during census period: Canada Goose, Canvasback, Cedar Waxwing.

9. DECORAH (A 15-mile diameter circle, center NE corner Sec. 24, T99N, R8W; river and creek bottoms 60 percent, fields 35 percent, city 5 percent). Temperature 10-23 F; wind 10-15 mph from W. Clear to cloudy; 8 in. snow cover; waters 80 percent frozen. Observers (13) in 4 parties: Florence Albright, Maree Anderson, Francis Arness, Alan Branhagen, Cletus Houdek, O. M. Hovde, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Mrs. Merlin Koenig, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Koenig, Ron Lecander, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rohm.

10. DES MOINES (15-mile diameter circle, center at 63rd and Center Sts., including Ashworth-Greenwood Park, Walnut Woods, Denman Res., Pine Hill Cemetery, Sycamore Park, Beaver Creek, Yeader Creek Park, Flint Access). Dec. 26; 7 a.m. to 5 p. p.m. Temperature 20 - 39 F; wind 10-20 mph from West; sunny, very light snow cover, lakes and streams mostly frozen. Observers (17) in 5 parties, plus one at feeder: William Boller, Jack Borg, Mr. and Mrs. Joe K. Brown, Woodward H. Brown (compiler), Miss Beth Clampitt, Oliver Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haskell, Joe Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mooney, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley, John and Steven Stewart, Miss Mary Ellen Wartens.

Details of unusual observations: Wood Ducks flushed at very close range near stream of warm water fed by an industrial plant. Uttered the characteristic Wood Duck cry as they flew and were well seen by Wm. Boller party. Brewer's Blackbirds seen separately, female in a hog lot with many Starlings and House Sparrows; male in a pasture with a small flock of Meadowlarks. Both observed by Joe Kennedy, Richard Mooney and Woodward Brown.

11. DUBUQUE (A 15-mile diameter circle centered on Center Grove Cemetery including Linwood Cemetery, John Deere, Sherrill, Durango, Peosta Valley, Dubuque's Grave, Miss. River and Sloughs). Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temperature 20-33 F; wind 12 mph from W. Cloudy to clear; 6-in. old frozen snow; river frozen between bridges. Observers (9) in 2 parties: Frieda Crossley, George Crossley (compiler), Warren Finch, Patricia Heideneich, Howard R. Higley, Joan Higley, Delbert Ludwig, Phyllis Shultz, Terry Theisen.

Details of unusual observations: Common Snipe and Killdeer in two large open spring areas; water kept open and feed provided for ducks; Glaucous Gull seen by party of six; eagles were all adults.

Other species seen during census period: Wood Duck, meadowlark (sp.), Evening Grosbeak, White-crowned Sparrow.

Comments: We were fortunate in this, our best count in 20+ years since I have compiled them. We covered the area somewhat more thoroughly.

12. FORT DODGE (15 mile diameter circle, center 2 mi. S. of Fort Dodge, to

include Des Moines River, Lizard Creek Area, Woodman's Hollow and Dolliver State Park). Jan. 1; 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Temperature 27-38 F; wind 0-20 mph from N.W., mostly clear, wind variable, 2 inches old snow on ground; Des Moines River open below dams, some ditches 30 percent open. Observers (4) in one party: Sue Macek, Jim Rod (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ferry Wetteland.

Comments: Robin, nuthatches, creepers, woodpeckers and chickadees responded to tape recorded Screech Owl calls. Horned Larks scarce.

13. GILMORE CITY (15-mile diameter circle - center 1 mi. S. and 1 mi. E. of Gilmore City; including Lizard Lake, Rutland Dam, Bradgate, west fork of Des Moines River). Dec. 31; 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temperature 12-32 F; wind 0 mph; Frosty in a.m. Sunny to overcast in p.m. 3" snow on ground; a few open places in river. Observers (4) in one party: James Rod, Myrtle Sabo, Margaret Van Alstine (compiler), Sewell Van Alstine.

Details of unusual observations: Northern Shrike - observed closely and all field marks noted.

Other species seen during census period: Gray Partridge, Robin, Common Grackle

14. HAWARDEN (15 mile diameter circle centered north of Hawarden to include Oak Grove park, Rock-Sioux access (both Iowa & South Dakota side); Big Sioux River area, open farm land, pit areas.); Temperature 23-34 F; wind 0-5 mph from S. Overcast to partly cloudy, some haze early; 5" snow cover, river 98 percent frozen. Observers, one, Ron Muilenburg.

15. IOWA CITY (15 mile circle with center near North Liberty (as previous years); Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temperature 12-22 F; wind 5 mph from NW. Clear, trace of old snow on north slopes. Observers (6) in one party and 3 at feeders: Robert Hulbary, Bill, F. W. (compiler), and T. H. Kent, Wm. Keettel, James Taylor.

Other species seen during census period: Long-eared Owl, Robin, White-throated Sparrow.

16. JEFFERSON (A 15-mile diameter circle centered on Hi-way 30 four miles west of Jefferson; includes Goose Lake, Dunbar Slough and Raccoon River woodlands. Dec. 23; 5:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Temperature -1 to 10 F; wind 25 mph from NW; skies clear; ground covered with 3 to 4 inches crusted snow; Lakes 100 percent ice covered; Rivers 90 percent ice covered. Observers (2) in one party: John Faaborg (compiler), Jim Rod.

Details of unusual observations: Remarkably few birds anywhere. Goose Lake and Dunbar Slough were nearly lifeless, contrasting their usually abundant birdlife.

Comments: Only Screech Owls responded to tape-recorded calls, perhaps due to the cold weather.

17. LAMONI (Parts of 15-mile diameter circle centered at intersection of Interstate 35 and U.S. 69, 2 1/4 miles east of Lamoni; including Nine Eagles Park, Graceland College Campus, country roads, farmland.) Dec. 22; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temperature 28-33 F; wind 10 mph from SW. Cloudy and misty p.m.; thin ice and snow cover, ponds and lakes frozen, streams open. Observers (6) in 3 parties: Mrs. Dean Ballantyne, Mrs. Wallace DeLong, Bill, David, Jim and J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler).

Details of unusual observations: Orange-crowned Warbler observed on count day by Mrs. Ballantyne and Mrs. DeLong at feeder of Mrs. Ralph Derry in Lamoni. Had been observed there since Dec. 10. Oregon Junco observed by Mrs. DeLong.

Other species seen during census period: Whistling Swan, Mallard, Barn Owl, Song Sparrow, Lapland Longspur.

Comments: Whistling Swans (2) were on Nine Eagles lake on Dec. 19 but cold wave on Dec. 20 and 21 forced them off. Barn Owl in Gillaspay barn since Sept. but missed on count day.

18. MARSHALLTOWN (A 15-mile diameter circle centered on the Marshall County Courthouse). Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Temperature 14-35 F; wind 10-25 mph from N to NW. Clear to partly cloudy; Approximately 4" snow on the ground; very little open water. Observers (17) in 5 parties, plus 3 at feeders: Wayne Britten, Mr. and Mrs. George Crowther, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Eige, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Glasgow, Mrs. R. L. Grimes, Mrs. Richard Huff, Miss Ruth Knights, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lawrence, Mrs. James Plambeck, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. James Wignall, Mrs. Francis Wilcox, Jr., Miss Ruth Zorn.

Details of unusual observations: Three Brown Thrashers seen at Timmons Grove Park.

Other species seen during census period: Catbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Evening Grosbeak, Rufous-sided Towhee, and White-throated Sparrow were seen at feeders in the area.

Comments: A tape recorder was used to call the Barred Owls between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Four owls responded in three separate locations.

19. MCKAIN'S ACCESS (A 15-mile diameter circle centered on McKain's Access (Skunk River) in SW Washington Co., & including Lake Darling State Park, river bottom, country roads, railroad right-of-way). Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Temperature 25-38 F; wind 7 mph from SE. Overcast to partly cloudy. No snow cover. No open water at Lake Darling. River mostly ice covered. Observers (2) in one party: Kathy Fisher (compiler), Mrs. Oneita Fisher.

Details of unusual observations: Red-winged Blackbirds were unusual for here; all were in one flock along railroad tracks near Skunk River. The approximately 200 Canada Geese, in a small area of open water near the Youth Center, were reported to us by the Lake Darling Park Officer on Dec. 21. Three days later we observed approximately 400 Mallards in the same area. The Broad-winged Hawk, adult, was closely & carefully observed both in flight & perched; all field marks noted.

Other species seen during census period: Canada Geese, Mallard, Hairy Woodpecker, Horned Lark, Winter Wren.

Comments: Birds were widely scattered, due to the relatively mild and very open winter to date. After a snow, the numbers of several species would probably double. Mourning Doves, usually plentiful, were completely missing; only an occasional one or two has been seen all fall. Meadowlarks are also absent. Pheasants extremely scarce in an area where they're normally found in large numbers.

20. MUSCATINE (15 mile diameter circle, center Lock and Dam 16, same as previous years). Dec. 26; 5:30 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. Temperature 20-33 F; wind 10-30 mph from W. Mostly clear, ground bare, river 60 percent ice covered. Observers (10) in 2 parties: Elton Fawks, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Mark Henderson, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), David Rader, Ernie Sadler, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Turkey Vulture carefully observed in flight in good light -- EF, JF. An area of about 150 acres was hunted by 18 Marsh Hawks simultaneously -- PP.

21. OSKALOOSA (A 15-mile diameter circle centered on the Mahaska County

Courthouse in Oskaloosa, including Keomah State Park). Dec. 20; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature 21-24 F; wind 0-3 mph. Mostly cloudy early to heavy overcast, no snow on ground, no precipitation, moving water not frozen, lake and ponds frozen solid. Observers (4) in one party; plus 5 at feeders: Judge and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Layton (compiler).

Other species seen during census period: Mourning Dove, Loggerhead Shrike.

22. PINE HOLLOW (a 15 mile diameter circle Farley, Iowa to and including White Pine Hollow Preserve). Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temperature 25-35 F; wind nearly calm. Cloudy, fog, snow squall, some sunshine; ground covered with about 5 inches old snow. Observers (3) in one party: George Crossley (compiler), Howard Higley, Jr., Howard R. Higley.

Details of unusual observations: Grackle and Mallards at open spring-fed pond, Killdeer in spring-fed ditch; more Mourning Doves than usual.

23. PRINCETON-CAMANCHE (15 mile diameter circle, center Follets, Iowa, same as last year). Jan. 1; 5:30 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. Temperature 30-42 F; wind 5-15 mph from S to NW. Overcast with snow flurries, clearing in P.M., ground bare, river 95 percent ice covered. Observers (10) in 5 parties: Philip Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Mrs. Elynor King, Fred and Maurice Leshner, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Sadler and Paul Van Nieuwenhuysse.

Details of unusual observations: Almost all puddle ducks seen at a "feeder" at Camanche. A group of residents there buy food and spread it along an open channel on the southwest edge of town.

Comments: The primary purpose of this count is to check on the effects of the nuclear power plant being built near Cordova, Ill., and near the center of the count. The two counts now taken represent the "before" data.

24. RED ROCK RESERVOIR (A 15-mile diameter circle centered on the headquarters of the Red Rock Wildlife Refuge, including bottomland fields, upland woods, and farmland around the refuge). Dec. 29; 4:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temperature 4-26 F; wind 5 mph from S. Skies clear; Some snow in sheltered areas; Rivers 80 percent ice covered. Observers (11) in 3 parties: Gladys Black, Woodward H. Brown, John Faaborg (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hanselman, Joe Kennedy, Jeff Kern, Paul Kline, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Mooney, Jim Rod.

Details of unusual observations: Water Pipits seen along the Red Rock Reservoir.

Other species seen during census period: Short-eared Owl.

Comments: Two parties used tape-recorders for owls in the early morning.

25. SHENANDOAH (40 degrees 43' N, 95 degrees 29' W, all points within a 15 mile diameter, center Farragut as in previous years include Riverton area; orchards and woods, 45 percent, coniferous woodland, including cemetery, 10 percent, farmland and prairie 45 percent). Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temperature 20 - 41 F; wind 5 mph from W, SW. Bright sun, ground clear and frozen; streams and rivers mostly frozen; springs open. Observers (9) in 4 parties: R. E. Barker, Mrs. Robert Bordner, Mrs. F. M. Braley (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Mrs. Eldon Spears, Mrs. Edward Vaughn, Miss Susan Vaughn, Mrs. Donald Walters.

Details of unusual observations: Large numbers of Blue and Snow Geese on the Riverton bottomis. There have been many hawks in the area since early October. The Ferruginous Hawk circled low over a ditch where Mrs. Walters was walking and all field marks observed, especially the strikingly white tail. The Peregrine Falcon has been present over two months just north of the Essex river bridge. Townsends Solitaire has been at the Walters farm since October and eats

bittersweet and cedar berries a few yards from the house.

Comments: Donald Priebe, the area conservation officer, reports that on December 23 he estimated 150,000 Mallards on the Riverton bottoms, but the count day observers saw only the 24 in a partly open ditch edging a dike, many of them cripples, although the area was closely covered. The geese, however, were present by the thousands.

26. SIOUX CITY (A 15-mile diameter of Sioux City Auditorium - same as previous years). Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temperature 30-36 F; wind 14 mph from NW. Clear and bright; approximately 1 to 2 inches of snow cover hard packed; Missouri River open; Big Sioux River open in some areas. Observers (9) in 4 parties: Mrs. Lyle Graham, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. George Marsh, Robert L. Nickolson (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Garland Roose, Edward Sibley, Jr.

Other species seen during census period: Mallard, Bald Eagle, Short-eared Owl, Western Meadowlark, Common Redpoll.

Comments: All observers noted a lack of bird activity in all areas, due possibly to mild weather up to this date. A number of wintering birds were not seen on count day.

27. UNION SLOUGH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (All points within a 15-mile circle center 2,077 acre national wildlife refuge, 5½ mi. West of Titonka, Marsh and water 50 percent, upland grass and mixed elm, cottonwood, willow, oak, thickets 40 percent, cropland 10 percent). Dec. 21; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature (not given); wind 10 mph from East; 8" snow cover, most water frozen. Observers (3) in one party: Stephen Berlinger (compiler), Allen Buchanan, Glen Welp.

Other species seen during census period: Great Blue Heron, Yellow-headed Blackbird.

28. WAPSIPINICON RIVER VALLEY (Bremer Co., 42 degrees 43'N, 92 degrees 14'W; all points within a 15-mile diameter, center Sec. 2, Maxfield Twp. to include Big Woods near Denver, Sweet Marsh Refuge, Seven Bridge park, farmland and woodlands within the area). Jan. 2; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Temperature 22-33 F; wind 9 mph from NE. Bright sunshine; 8 inches snow-ice ground cover; streams frozen. Observers (12) in 2 parties: Myrle M. Burk (compiler), Antionette Camarata, Mrs. Eleanor Corwin, Richard Evans, Russell Hayes, Fred Holgate, Mrs. Mabel Immerzeel, Mrs. Fred Knoll, Lowell Miller, Mrs. Lowell Miller, Mrs. A. J. Moser, John Osness.

Details of unusual observations: Oregon Junco identified by reliable bird observers -- seen among group of Slate-colored Juncos.

Other species seen during census period: Red-shouldered Hawk, Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl.

29. YELLOW RIVER FOREST (A 15-mile diameter circle, center NE corner Sec. 8, T96N, R3W; Miss. River with timbered bluffs 30 percent, streams with wooded hills 30 percent, farms 30 percent, towns 10 percent). Dec. 24; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temperature 10-15 F; wind 8-15 mph from S. Clear to cloudy; 8 in. snow cover; waters 70 percent frozen. Observers (4) in one party: Cletus Houdek, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Mrs. Merlin Koenig, Arnold Rohm.

OTHER COUNTS

ALEDO, ILL. (15 mile diamter circle, Center 2 miles S. of Joy, Illinois same as previous years). Jan. 3; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temperature 25-35 F; wind 15-30 mph from E. Overcast, snow and blizzard conditions, ground covered by one inche of snow at 8:00 a.m. 12 inches at 4:30 p.m., river 50 percent ice covered. Observers

(10) in 3 parties: Marcella Campbell, Elton Fawks, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Ted Greer, Jim Lewis, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), David Rader, Ernie Sadler, Mrs. Warren Wickstrom. Birds seen: Red-tailed Hawk-5; Rough-legged Hawk-1; Bald Eagle-1, Bob White-12, Ring-necked Pheasant-5, Common Snipe-2, Herring Gull-10, Mourning Dove-8, Great Horned Owl-2, Yellow-shafted Flicker-6; Red-bellied Woodpecker-4, Red-headed Woodpecker-1, Hairy Woodpecker-4, Downy Woodpecker-16, Horned Lark-73, Blue Jay-10, Common Crow-7, Black-capped Chickadee-17, Tufted Titmouse-7, White-breasted Nuthatch-1, Carolina Wren-1, Mockingbird-2, Golden-crowned Kinglet-2, Starling-123, House Sparrow-438, Red-winged Blackbird-43, Common Grackle-7, Brown-headed Cowbird-2, Cardinal-127, Purple Finch-1, American Goldfinch-15, Slate-colored Junco-708, Oregon Junco-1, Tree Sparrow-672, White-throated Sparrow-2, and Song Sparrow-4. Total - 36 species.

Other species seen during census period: Marsh Hawk, Short-eared Owl.

Comments: Weather conditions extremely bad, visibility at times only 100 feet.

WHEATLAND (Springrock, Grant, and Liberty Townships in Clinton County and Liberty Township in Scott County). Temperature 0-24 F; wind 0-5 mph from NW. Cloudless sky, snow cover in protected areas and north slopes ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch). Most of count area consisted of woods and croplands. Observers (3) in one party: Esther Copp, Tim Rowold, Tom Rowold (compiler). Birds seen: Red-tailed Hawk-1, Rough-legged Hawk-1, Sparrow Hawk-2, Ring-necked Pheasant-10, Common Snipe-1, Mourning Dove-13, Short-eared Owl-1, Yellow-shafted Flicker-5, Red-bellied Woodpecker-3, Red-headed Woodpecker-2, Downy Woodpecker-12, Blue Jay-1, Common Crow-294, Black-capped Chickadee-6, White-breasted Nuthatch-2, Starling-398, House Sparrow-453, Cardinal-20, Slate-colored Junco-51, Tree Sparrow-165, Song Sparrow-3. Total species - 21.

Other species seen during census period: Marsh Hawk, Barred Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Creeper, Western Meadowlark.

Iowa Bird Banding Summary

For 1970

DEAN M. ROOSA
GOLDFIELD, IOWA

During 1970 several new banders joined our group. We welcome Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonacker, Bettendorf, who were sub-permittees of Pete Petersen last year. Kurt Ohlander, a student at Iowa State University, Ames, is a new bander and is primarily interested in banding birds of prey. Jim Rod, also a student at Iowa State, is a sub-permittee of John Faaborg, and enjoyed a very good first year. Mrs. W. C. DeLong has moved from Shenandoah to 314 N. Silver, Lamoni, Iowa.

For the first time since this compilation was started, Pete Petersen was not the leader in the number of individuals banded. This year, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton, Oskaloosa, enjoyed good netting with over 3000 birds banded. Close behind were the Digs with over 2600.

The only new bird to appear on the list is the Cerulean Warbler that failed to see John Faaborg's net. An interesting event occurred at Mrs. DeLong's banding station when a hybrid Audubon x Myrtle Warbler was caught. Some nice colonial banding was done with swallows; Faaborg and Rod banded over 400 Cliff Swallows and the Diggs banded over 600 Bank Swallows. This should yield some interesting returns and recoveries over the next few years. The Diggs again showed they have a great area for Tree Sparrows, with over 300 banded. The Laytons had an outstanding total of 223 House Wrens. Ohlander trapped 34 Red-tailed Hawks. Black banded a surprising total of 26 Mockingbird nestlings. Projects such as these would make good material for articles for *Iowa Bird Life*.

A detailed report, including which birds were banded by whom, will be sent later to all banders and also to interested members who request it. It is hoped that this report includes all the banders in Iowa. If there are others, notification would be appreciated.

Following is a list of banders and the number of species and individuals they banded in Iowa in 1970:

Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa	88	1,162
Gladys Black, Pleasantville	29	97
Dr. Myrle Burk, Waterloo, inactive this year		
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, 314 N. Silver, Lamoni	88	1,283
Hazel and Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg	100	2,609
John Faaborg, ISU, Ames	72	642
Ken Formanek, Des Moines	27	131
Iowa Conservation Commission	16	9,051
Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Layton, Oskaloosa	122	3,209
Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Lonneck, 1310 Devil's Glen Rd., Bettendorf ...	4	5
Kurt Ohlander, ISU, Ames	3	37
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport	102	1,728
Mr. and Mrs. G. Homer Rinehart, Marshalltown	71	504
Jim Rod, ISU, Ames, Sub-permittee of John Faaborg	80	633
Dean M. Roosa, Goldfield	8	33
Robert H. Stratton, Jr. Mgr. Union Slough, Tiltonka	2	220
Mrs. Donald Walters, Essex	49	267
Mrs. E. C. Zollars, Shenandoah, sub-permittee of Mrs. DeLong		
Totals	151	21,211
Green Heron	8	
Canada Goose	143	
Mallard	2,368	
Black Duck	2	
Gadwall	1	
Pintail	17	
Green-winged Teal	70	
Blue-winged Teal	2,649	
American Widgeon	1	
Shoveler	1	
Wood Duck	955	
Redhead	105	
Ring-necked Duck	1	
Lesser Scaup		3
Ruddy Duck		8
Turkey Vulture		3
Sharp-shinned Hawk		30
Cooper's Hawk		1
Red-tailed Hawk		48
Sparrow Hawk		5
Bob-white		11
Ring-necked Pheasant		1
Sora		2
Killdeer		1
American Woodcock		3
Spotted Sandpiper		4

BIRD BANDING SUMMARY

17

Pectoral Sandpiper	6	Long-billed Marsh Wren	3
White-rumped Sandpiper	8	Short-billed Marsh Wren	3
Semipalmated Sandpiper	3	Mockingbird	36
Mourning Dove	2,599	Catbird	487
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	11	Brown Thrasher	261
Black-billed Cuckoo	10	Robin	643
Screech Owl	16	Wood Thrush	22
Great-Horned Owl	5	Hermit Thrush	37
Barred Owl	3	Swainson's Thrush	228
Long-eared Owl	2	Gray-cheeked Thrush	109
Saw-whet Owl	3	Veery	15
Whip-poor-will	2	Eastern Bluebird	123
Common Nighthawk	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	43
Chimney Swift	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	175
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..	3	Cedar Waxwing	115
Belted Kingfisher	11	Northern Shrike	4
Yellow-shafted Flicker	78	Loggerhead Shrike	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	17	Starling	19
Red-headed Woodpecker	43	White-eyed Vireo	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	12	Bell's Vireo	6
Hairy Woodpecker	22	Yellow-throated Vireo	2
Downy Woodpecker	166	Solitary Vireo	35
Eastern Kingbird	21	Red-eyed Vireo	116
Crested Flycatcher	36	Philadelphia Vireo	19
Eastern Phoebe	50	Warbling Vireo	32
Say's Phoebe	6	Audubon X Myrtle hybrid	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	53	warbler	1
Acadian Flycatcher	17	Black-and-white Warbler	55
Traill's Flycatcher	38	Golden-winged Warbler	8
Least Flycatcher	92	Blue-winged Warbler	5
Eastern Wood Pewee	41	Tennessee Warbler	182
Empidonax Sp. flycatcher	12	Orange-crowned Warbler	88
Olive-sided Flycatcher	4	Nashville Warbler	231
Horned Lark	5	Parula Warbler	7
Tree Swallow	1	Yellow Warbler	43
Bank Swallow	701	Magnolia Warbler	56
Rough-winged Swallow	35	Cape May Warbler	1
Barn Swallow	80	Myrtle Warbler	89
Cliff Swallow	448	Black-throated Green Warbler ..	5
Purple Martin	23	Cerulean Warbler	1
Blue Jay	272	Blackburnian Warbler	3
Common Crow	2	Chestnut-sided Warbler	30
Black-capped Chickadee	214	Bay-breasted Warbler	7
Tufted Titmouse	55	Blackpoll Warbler	23
White-breasted Nuthatch	47	Pine Warbler	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Palm Warbler	5
Brown Creeper	39	Ovenbird	107
House Wren	438	Northern Waterthrush	125
Winter Wren	10	Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Bewick's Wren	2	Kentucky Warbler	10
Carolina Wren	11	Connecticut Warbler	2

Mourning Warbler	20	Common Redpoll	90
Yellowthroat	252	Pine Siskin	246
Yellow-breasted Chat	6	American Goldfinch	512
Wilson's Warbler	73	Red Crossbill	49
Canada Warbler	31	Rufous-sided Towhee	8
American Redstart	62	Savannah Sparrow	8
House Sparrow	13	Grasshopper Sparrow	4
Bobolink	2	LeConte's Sparrow	1
Eastern Meadowlark	11	Vesper Sparrow	18
Western Meadowlark	7	Lark Sparrow	3
Yellow-headed Blackbird	11	Slate-colored Junco	752
Red-winged Blackbird	204	Oregon Junco	6
Orchard Oriole	3	Tree Sparrow	645
Baltimore Oriole	129	Chipping Sparrow	67
Rusty Blackbird	32	Clay-colored Sparrow	2
Common Grackle	308	Field Sparrow	62
Brown-headed Cowbird	49	Harris' Sparrow	115
Scarlet Tanager	16	White-crowned Sparrow	22
Cardinal	258	White-throated Sparrow	283
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	250	Fox Sparrow	37
Indigo Bunting	182	Lincoln's Sparrow	193
Dickcissel	26	Swamp Sparrow	55
Purple Finch	104	Song Sparrow	130
		Total individuals	21,211

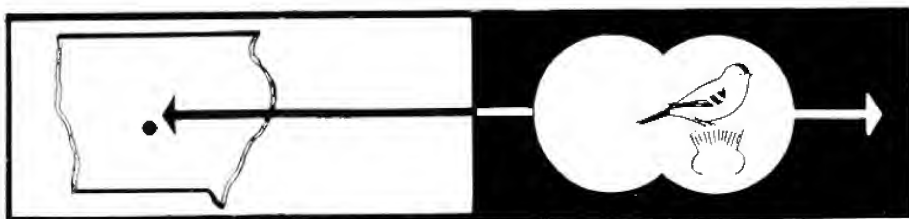
I.O.U. Library Moved

During a recent relocation of the U.N.I. Museum it became apparent there was no longer any space available to store the I.O.U. Library and it was in danger of being hauled to the dump. Thanks to the efforts of some of our members and friends it has been safely stored in the basement of our President where it is being sorted and reorganized. Those involved in the sequence of events leading to the transfer deserve recognition.

Thanks to Dr. Pauline Sauer, Director of the Museum, for bringing the situation to our attention. Thanks to John Osness in Waterloo for volunteering to see that the library was retained until arrangements could be made to move it. A friend of his, Mr. Gus Honaskus also played a part in that. John lined up a date and a meeting time when we could load up the Library and even brought along two men to help load - Mr. Truman Miller and Mr. Lowell Miller. I believe both are members of the local Waterloo Bird Club.

The President of the Cedar Rapids Audubon Naturalist Society, Eldon Johnson volunteered to drive his car. On the appointed date he and Beryl Layton, Patricia Layton, and John Layton set out for Waterloo, rented a trailer and with everyone helping, got the Library loaded and back to Cedar Rapids by shortly after noon. Getting it into the basement was another story. Many thanks again to all those who helped in the move.

Investigation is now under way for choosing a permanent location. Beryl Layton.



Birding Areas of Iowa; Des Moines-Polk County

JOSEPH BROWN
3300 Lincoln Ave.
DES MOINES

Des Moines (metro.) 1970 population: 246,000 (appr.)

Average annual precipitation: 30.37 inches

Average high temperature: Jan. 29 degrees; July, 87 degrees

Area covered by this report: 575 sq. miles (appr.)

Bird Club: Des Moines Audubon Society

10 year average species census records: Christmas - 49.9; Spring - 127.0

Introduction

Bird study in the Des Moines - Polk County area has been pursued for nearly a century, the migration studies of Grant, Keyes, Cooke, and Green in the 1880's being the pioneer publications relating to this region. Although earlier records are not known to exist, it seems reasonable to believe that amateur birders have enjoyed the abundance of bird species in the Des Moines area since the 1830's when Fort Des Moines was founded.

The confluence of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers, the many wooded ravines, the sloughs of northern Polk County and the broad river valley below the confluence all must have offered early settlers a challenging number of birds to observe.

They still do. Even today, after over one hundred years of the insults that modern civilization heaps upon the land, birding is good around Des Moines. Though sloughs and marshes have nearly all vanished and pavement has replaced prairie grass, we can still list well over 250 species of birds as occurring with reasonable regularity within the reaches of Des Moines.

The area offers to the birder a nice mixture of city parks and country fields and woodland. The cyclist or hiker will find good birding in many of the Des Moines parks, and those who use the auto as a mobile bird blind have access to a variety of habitat areas in and around the city.

The map which accompanies this article is designed to show the immediate Des Moines region, and use of it will enable the birder visiting, as well as residing here, to do a creditable job of observation at any season of the year. (Any experienced Des Moines birder will be quick to point out that the map depicts major areas only. Many more await one's discovery).

The areas shown on the map can be grouped in terms of habitat and topography, so that birders may "mix and match" in any way they choose for field trips around Des Moines.

River Bottoms

Waterworks Park, off Fleur Drive in Des Moines is good at all seasons. It contains meadowlands, deciduous woods, many small ponds, and an extensive collection of crabapple trees in an arboretum. The Raccoon River flows through or beside it.

The crabs attract wintering robins and waxwings; the ponds offer good short range duck and shorebird viewing in season, and sometimes provide areas of open water during the winter.

Level topography and well maintained roads make it a good area for the hiker or cyclist.

Walnut Woods State Park. Along the Raccoon River southwest of Des Moines accessible from Army Post Rd. (Iowa Rt. 5). Camping. Open woodlands, an oxbow lagoon, and nearby borrow pits. Broad-winged hawks are frequently seen. Good in Spring when the lagoon is more likely to contain water.

Birdland, Waukonsa, Crocker Woods. In Des Moines along the Des Moines River from Second Avenue to Prospect Road. All are rather the worse for the ravages of time and urban pressures. A springtime walk along the dike west of Sixth Avenue and curving to Riverview Park (Waukonsa area) can still be productive of warblers and flycatchers despite increased noise from powerboat traffic on the river.

Flint Access and Sycamore Park. North along the Des Moines River. Tangly, brushy areas, many dead elms, large sycamores, cottonwoods and lindens. Reach Flint Access from 12 St. Road north of Euclid Avenue. Sycamore Park lies just south of N.W. 66th Ave. at the river. Flint is a recommended Fall sparrow site; it features more open terrain.

Philip Jester County Park. A major Polk County recreational area. Camping. Many cleared areas provide much woodland edge. Good shelters and abundant picnic sites. Especially good during migrations. It is west of Polk City on gravel or northeast of Granger on paved roads.

River Valley and Wooded Ravines

Brown's Woods. Along the Raccoon River, off 63rd St. south of West Des Moines. Private property — margins only are accessible. Dense oak-hickory woodland typical of what the Des Moines area must have been like a hundred years ago. Buteonine hawks are often visible over and nearby these woods. At the time of writing, the future of this area is in question. The woods form the major portion of a large tract that has recently been placed on the real estate market.

Pioneer Park. Along the Des Moines River off S. E. 14th St. A green hillside refuge from the encroaching miasma of urban strip exploitation at its worst. Picnic facilities and view of downtown Des Moines; good sparrow habitat.

Greenwood and Ashworth Parks. At Grand Avenue and Polk Boulevard. Greenwood Park surrounds the Des Moines Art Center (the latter open Tuesday through Sunday and Thursday evenings). Ashworth is contiguous with Greenwood on the latter's southern boundary and is a wild succession of steep wooded ravines draining into Walnut Creek, thence to the Raccoon River. In effect, these city

parks form a northern wooded extension of Waterworks Park. Good reliable year-round birding areas. Greenwood is especially scenic after a fresh snowfall.

Margo Frankel Woods State Park. Reached via 6th Avenue or 2nd Avenue north of the city. Deciduous woodlands on ravine hillsides. Good warbler woods in Spring.

Two Saylorville Dam Site Overlooks. The west side is accessible from Highway 401 northeast of Camp Dodge; the east overlook is reached first from N.W. 66th Ave. then north on Toni Drive. Both overlooks command a fine vista of the Des Moines River Valley. A tripod mounted spotting scope can yield views of a good variety of migratory hawks from late September through October.

Kinglet and Dove Woods. Along Beaver Creek on the west edge of Camp Dodge. The Camp Dodge portion of these woods is closed to the public, but the western boundaries are accessible from county roads. Good mixed habitats can yield Phoebe and Woodpeckers, Horned Larks, and Sparrows on an early spring drive. Short-eared Owls sometimes are seen in nearby fields during winter months.

Upland Meadows and Ponds

Glendale Cemetery. University Avenue at 49th St. Yields Meadowlarks in the city and fall sparrows which are attracted to brush piles left by maintenance crews. A small lagoon can harbor a few Scaup or Ringnecks in early spring and later spring often brings a Green Heron. Fall migratory Nighthawks sometimes rest at night on graveled service roads in the north portion and can be approached closely if a bright flashlight is used. At 969 ft. above sea level this is one of the highest land areas in Des Moines.

Fisher's Lake. Off N.W. 66th Avenue, a mile east of the Sycamore Park region. An oxbow with a fluctuating water level. Good short range viewing of waterfowl. Nearby fields south of N.W. 66th Avenue are marshy in wet springs and can yield good lists of waders. Other nearby fields offer Vesper, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows.

Brenton's Slough. Beside Beaver creek north of Grimes (take NW 142d St.). A remnant of pre-agricultural Polk County. Private property. Margins of this area can be birded from railroad right-of-way and may provide good views of wetland birdlife from Soras to Herons. The slough itself is unfortunately closed to the public, but the environs are themselves very productive.

Crocker. Fields east of this cluster of houses are occasionally wet as the water table rises and thus they provide temporary habitat for migratory waders. Distances are not great and motorists can park on the shoulders of N.W. 118th Avenue, a paved road, to make their observations.

Ankeny Ponds. East from I-35 on N.E. 94th Avenue (Ankeny Interchange) to N.E. 56th Street, then north about 2.5 miles. An ephemeral marshy area adjacent to the graveled roadway. Very short range viewing takes some of the frustration out of shore bird identification. The wet areas are on both east and west sides of N.E. 56th Street.

Artificial Lakes

Dale Maffitt Reservoir. Reached by Maffitt Lake road west from I-35 & Army Post Road (Iowa Rt. 5) Interchange. This is Des Moines' largest nearby body of water, and it serves as an impounding reservoir for the Des Moines waterworks. Many bays and inlets give migratory waterfowl ample refuge space. Shoreline woods, nearby fields, and a grove of conifers at the southwest extremity provide a variety of habitat. Autumn and spring waterfowl species are varied and abundant. Overwater distances are considerable and a scope is required for best viewing. There are few waders. The area is fenced and muddy conditions can cause all roads to be closed.

Lake Easter. Off S.E. 14th Street via Evergreen Avenue. Short distance viewing of migratory waterfowl, Gulls, and Terns. Some shoreline is suitable for waders. A reclaimed area, formerly an abandoned strip mine.

Gray's Lake. A city park off Fleur Drive, just east of Waterworks Park. Gulls, Terns, and waterfowl are attracted spring and fall to this one-time gravel pit.

Other Areas

In addition to the Des Moines sites listed, two nearby areas merit consideration: Lake Red Rock, southeast of Des Moines by Knoxville, and the Ledges State Park, north of the City. Both require only about a 45 minute drive.

Lake Red Rock makes available such experiences as seeing really large flocks of migratory waterfowl, especially in the spring. Wintering Bald Eagles are now to be seen in central Iowa since the completion of the Red Rock Project.

The topography of the Ledges is well known to most Iowa naturalists, but perhaps not so familiar is the excellent small wildlife exhibit, which is maintained by the Iowa Conservation Commission. It is actually a small zoo at which pinioned waterfowl swim on a small unfenced pond and where caged raptorial and game birds (some collected as injured specimens) can be seen. Small mammals and some reptiles are also exhibited. The exhibit is open summers only from late May until late Oct.

Summary

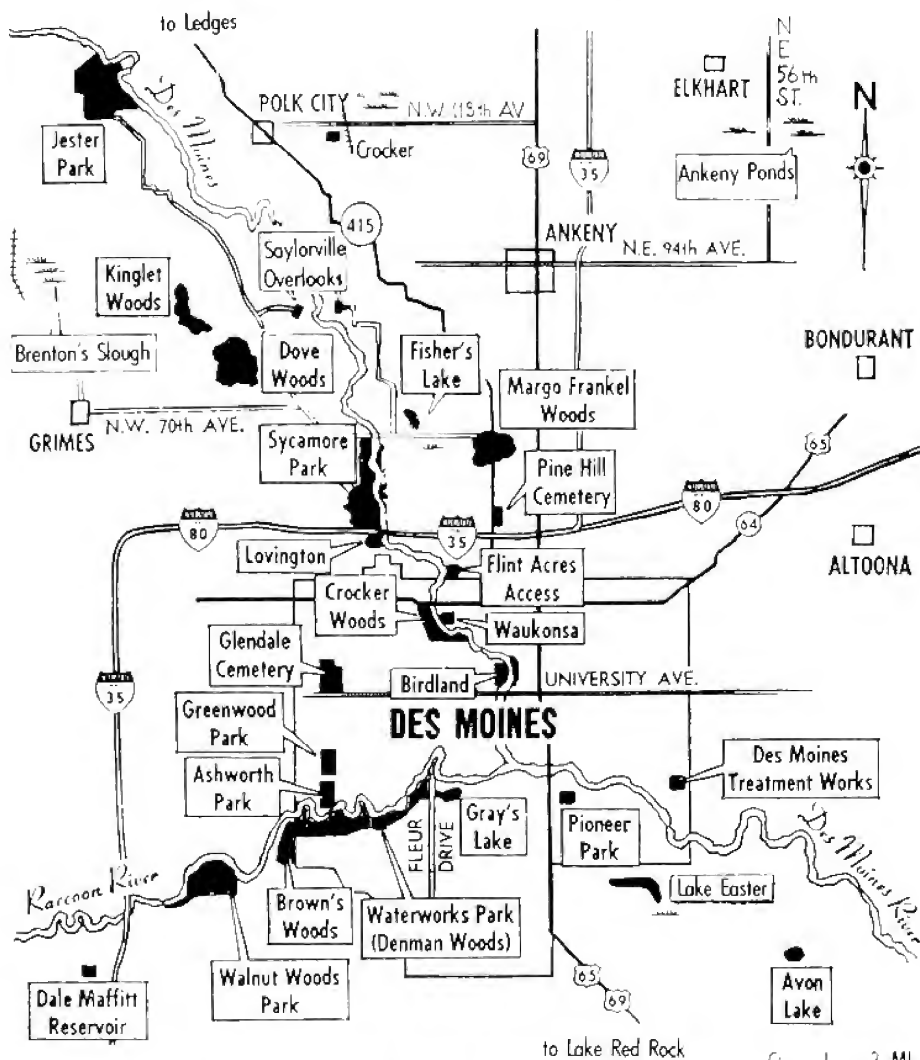
To enter a note of personal opinion, it is the author's suggestion that the following Des Moines areas are perhaps the best ones to investigate during the appropriate season:

FALL: Maffitt Reservoir (Waterfowl, Sparrows, Hawks)

WINTER: Waterworks Park (overwintering Robins, Waxwings in crab orchard); Greenwood Park (common winter species and stunning winter scenery); Glendale Cemetery (common winter species and sometimes Redpolls very accessible).

SPRING: Easter Lake (Waders, Ducks at close range; good roads); Jester Park (Passerine migrants); Fisher's Lake (Shorebirds, Waders).

If there is one best all around birding area in Des Moines, it is probably Waterworks Park. It is conveniently located as part of the city; it has a good system of well maintained level roads; it has ponds to add interest and to expand the species list; its blooming crab trees are lovely in late April; its flowerbeds are colorful throughout the growing season; and its birdlife is seemingly abundant at any time.



BIRDING AREAS OF DES MOINES

A Des Moines Audubon Society Map

Further Suggestions

Should climate or other reasons restrict one to the indoors, Des Moines supports a number of libraries which contain well balanced collections of ornithological literature to supplement field observations.

A really extensive collection of journals and periodicals encompassing nearly all areas of natural history is assembled at the Reference Department of the main Public Library of Des Moines. Very good collections of bird books are also available at both East and West Side Main Branch Libraries.

The Drake University and Grand View College Libraries have good journal

and periodical collections, as well as extensive lists of government publications.

During weekday hours the Iowa State Library at the State Historical Building is available for use. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*, *Audubon Magazine*, and *Birdlore* are on file.

At the time of writing the Des Moines Center of Science and Industry (Greenwood-Ashworth Parks) is beginning its operation, and it may well serve as a source of information for amateur naturalists.

Also the Des Moines Children's Zoo (7401 SW 9th) maintains a small collection of birds in its flight cage (mostly tropical and exotic species). It is open daily (except Mon.) June through Labor Day and on weekends in September.

The Des Moines Audubon Society, founded in 1923, continues to hold monthly meetings during fall, winter and spring. These meetings present educational programs which are open to visitors and newcomers, as well as members. The Des Moines Public Library has a list of current officers who may be contacted for information about meetings and field trips which the Society conducts on a scheduled, as well as an informal basis. The Society also publishes a comprehensive **Polk County Check List**, available for purchase from the Treasurer.

Acknowledgements: The map is based on one prepared and published by the Des Moines Tribune. Mr. William Boller supplied the bird species census figures, and other members of the Des Moines Audubon Society made helpful suggestions concerning the selection and discussion of the field areas.

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Spring Convention

Don't forget to set aside the dates right now for the spring convention of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to be held the weekend of May 7, 8, 9, in Cedar Rapids. The Audubon Naturalist Society of Cedar Rapids will be our host and the word is that arrangements are progressing steadily.

As of this date they report that those of you who arrive on Friday night will be able to attend their last scheduled Audubon Wildlife Film "This Earth, This Realm, This England" by C. P. Lyons. There will be coffee after the "film" in an adjoining room provided by the local club members for convention visitors and of course they hope Mr. Lyons will be able to join them also. All this will be held in Sinclair Auditorium on the campus of Coe College.

Saturday will begin with registration (for those who neglected to pre-register) at convention headquarters -- the Holiday Inn in Southwest Cedar Rapids at the junction of Highways 30 and 149. The day will continue with the usual mix of interesting and informative subjects, an occasional break for coffee, a long lunch break, and a business meeting or two.

In the evening we will return for a banquet in the same rooms. There is an

outstanding program in store for us so don't miss this one. The speaker will be Dr. David Parmelee from the Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis. His program is entitled Birds and Mammals of the Canadian High Arctic. Details on the subject matter will be mailed later.

Sunday of course will start off with an early breakfast and a brisk field trip to one of several good birding areas, then around noon we will enjoy an outdoor lunch in a park. When our hunger pangs have been quieted we will proceed to compile the results of our field trip, have a final business meeting and head for home. Please reserve the dates now, start saving your pennies, bring some good weather and some friends when you come. Beryl Layton.

FIELD REPORTS

FALL, 1970

The fall season was unusually wet with 11 inches of rain in September and October in central Iowa, and the migration was disappointing to most observers. A poor shorebird migration was variously blamed on either too little or too much rainfall. The shorebirds were a blank (FK), and generally poor (GB) with a few seen in Des Moines. Warblers appeared to have gone through without stopping, prompting the comments: almost none (GB), disappointing (PK), mostly Myrtles and Nashvilles (LS), dull, except for Myrtles (DK), and minor waves on 13 and 24 September with nothing unusual (FK), but Petersen noticed good movements on 30 August, 1 September and 7 September. Migrant sparrows were: very scarce with October a blank (FK), and a very poor migration (RZ,PK,HP).

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants. The Common Loon was seen on Cedar Lake on 29 November and 13 December (LS). No Horned or Eared Grebes were reported in Des Moines, but 2 Horned were present during November (LS). Two Western Grebes remained at the Des Moines Impounding Res. the last half of November, and one was seen early in December. White Pelicans at Red Rock Refuge were 70 on 23 September, 24 on 28 September, and 11 on 12 and 13 October (GB). A group from Marshalltown saw 16 Cormorants at Rock Creek Lake (fide MS). Cormorants were at Red Rock from mid-September through October with a high of 44. Lake Easter at Des Moines had 2 as late as 23 November (EP).

Hérons. There were at least 100 Great Blue at Red Rock in September and October (GB), but they were fewer (JK), and none reported (DH). A Cattle Egret which stayed on a farm near Pleasantville from 12 to 27 October spent the nights in a heron roost at the foot of Red Rocks Bluff. Common Egrets were at Red Rock with 5 on 15 August, and usually one or two through October (GB). Only 1 Black-crowned Night Heron was seen (GB), but 4 immatures were noted in November (LS).

Swans, Geese. A Mute Swan seen by many observers near Hamburg caused considerable excitement. It was learned that several had escaped from an Omaha zoo. Two Whistling Swans stayed at Nine Eagle Lake for two months until December (DG, GDel). There were geese in the air most of the fall but few stopped (FK). A mixed flock of 200 was very largely Blue and Snow with only a few

Canada. Large concentrations of Canada were at DeSoto Bend (DH), and there were more than usual at Riverton (RZ). At Red Rock the first flock of 18 appeared on 15 September and the numbers built up to 4000 in October and through 17 November (GB). Eleven White-fronted were at Red Rock during the last half of October, and there were 4 at the Des Moines Res. on 16 and 17 November which is rather late. The Blue and Snow population at Red Rock through October and on the 17 November count amounted to 12,000 (GB).

Ducks. Both numbers of species and of individuals were thought down in the Iowa City area (FK), and in Polk Co., but most species were present in limited numbers at Rock Creek (MS), and there were 11 species on Cedar Lake in November (LS). Red Rock had only a few hundred Blue-winged in September (GB). Wood Ducks were thought more numerous than usual (PK). There were 1000 Lesser Scaup at Coralville on 4 October (FK), and the same number at Rathbun Lake on 17 November (fide GB). A flock of 20 Buffleheads was present on 15 October (FK), and L & D 9 had 12 Hooded Mergansers on 15 November (DK).

Vultures, Hawks. A very heavy flight of Red-tailed, Rough-legged, Swainson's and Marsh Hawks extended over two months (EJB), and more hawks of all species were reported this year (DH). There was a fair migration, mostly Broadwings (JK). Turkey Vultures peaked at 100 on 30 September which compares with 200 last year, and the last was seen on 24 October (GB). Red-tailed were seen in big numbers (DG), and were thought numerous (RZ). More than 100 Broad-winged were seen at Iowa City on 26 September (JB, FK), and they roosted in numbers in late September at Red Rock (GB). Rough-legged were seen in big numbers and more than 30 were thought to be in the area (DG). An immature Golden Eagle was sighted 30 September, and at least 7 Bald Eagles were present at Red Rock (GB). On 11 October 3 of the latter were at L & D 9 (DK). Marsh Hawks were seen daily in September and October with a high of 7, and 2 were present on 17 November (GB). They were thought more numerous (JK). An Osprey was seen on 19 September at Sandy Beach (LS). A Pigeon was observed at Clear Lake (no date) (PK). Sparrow Hawks were found in limited numbers (JK), and were thought fewer in Des Moines.

Grouse, Quail, Pheasants. A Ruffed Grouse flushed at a distance of eight feet in the woods near Van Meter was far from its normal Iowa range (AH). All summer reports mentioned a good breeding season for Bobwhites, but they are thought scarce (JK). Pheasants are referred to as numerous (JK), and more than in 1969, but not up to normal (EJB), while there appear to be differences of opinion regarding their abundance in the Sioux City Area (DH).

Shorebirds. The lack of water was thought to have caused a poor migration (JK). No rails were reported (DH), but a few Virginia were seen at Clear Lake (PK), and several Sora were seen in a field being plowed. A Yellow Rail was well seen in a red clover field on 31 August and on 29 September (GB). Coots were again numerous (FK, MS, WHB). A late Semi palmed Plover was watched at Fisher's Lake on 6 November (RM). Killdeer were thought down from 1969 with 24 seen on 29 October (GB). A Woodcock observation was on 3 November (PK). Lake Easter near Des Moines had 2 late Dunlin on 18 November (MB, RM). A flock of 47 Dowitchers was counted on 5 November at Red Rock (GB, MB).

Gulls, Terns. Ring-billed Gulls were numerous with more than 200 present on 5 November (GB). During the first week in October the number of Franklin's was estimated as being anywhere from 100-500 thousand. Small flocks continued to be present until 29 October (GB). This compares with the population at Gavin's Point in South Dakota where they covered the water in an area estimated at 10 acres

(DH). A good case is made for a Sabine's Gull seen at Clear Lake (PK). There are reports of Caspian Terns: Sandy Beach on 19 September (LS), from 2 to 16 seen for 2 weeks at Rock Creek (MS), 2 at Cardinal Marsh on 27 September (DK), 40 on 26 September and 2 on 9 October (GB).

Pigeons, Doves. A Band-tailed Pigeon seen in Webster Co. by John A. Crawford is described in a longer note. Mourning Doves were thought to be fewer (GB).

Owls. Horned Owls have been numerous (RZ). A Long-eared Owl which had been heard was finally flushed on 27 November (EC). Short-eared have been numerous (DG).

Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds. A spectacular migration of Nighthawks began on 16 August with the last seen on 29 September (GB). More than 60 were seen on 2 September (PK), and at least 150 were noted on 4 September (PCP). Swifts were down (GB). Hummingbirds were constantly at two feeders in September (GB).

Woodpeckers. Yellow-shafted Flickers have been numerous (DH), and large flocks were seen for a few days in October (GB). On 15 November there were 5 Pileated Woodpeckers at L & D 9 (DK).

Flycatchers, Swallows. A late report of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher seen May 8, 1970 by K. R. Russell and Larry D. Wing in Ringgold County (see longer note following). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen on the late date 22 September (LS). There were large concentrations of swallows in the last week of September (FK), and mixed flocks of from 50-100 thousand from mid-August. The last seen were 50 on 28 October (GB). A late Purple Martin was seen on 2 November (DH). November (DH).

Nuthatches, Wrens, Thrushes. There appear to have been only one (RH) Red-breasted Nuthatch in the fall migration. Winter Wrens seen were: in the Coralville area on 19 September (LS), in Des Moines in late October (JKB), and on 1 November (PK). Robins were again numerous in Des Moines. A late Hermit Thrush was seen on 26 November (RH). A Townsend's Solitaire at the farm of Elizabeth Walters near Essex was first seen on 7 November (fide RZ). Flocks of Bluebirds were seen almost daily in October and early November (GB).

Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes. The only Golden-crowned Kinglets mentioned were 12 at Blue Lake on 18 October (DH). A flock of 7 Water Pipits was seen at Red Rock on 21 October (GB). Cedar Waxwings were thought abundant (RZ). The Northern Shrike, a rarity in southern Iowa, was banded on 18 November (RZ). Another was well seen at Red Rock on 2 October (GB). A Loggerhead Shrike, the first seen in two years where it formerly nested, was noted on 24 November (EC). None were reported from Sioux City, and they have been few in Des Moines, but they appear plentiful (DG).

Vireos, Warblers. Vireos were few with one slight wave on 22 September (JK). Two Parulas were netted on 7 September (PCP). A Black-throated Blue male in good plumage was seen on 17 September (PK). The Black-throated Green, rare in that area, was seen on 13 October (EJB). A late Connecticut was seen on 8 October (LS).

Blackbirds, Finches. It is estimated that at least a million blackbirds passed through in September, October, and early November. They were principally Red-winged with great numbers of Grackles and many Cowbirds and Starlings (GB). A flock of 200 Bobolinks was seen in Scott Co. on 7 September (J. Frink, fide PCP). Goldfinches have been fewer (RZ), but a flock of 30 was at Blue Lake on 16 October (DH) and many more than usual are coming to the feeders (HP). Towhees are

scarce (RZ) with none seen in Des Moines. One of the spotted race was at Red Rock on 5 November (GB, RM). LeConte's Sparrows were quite plentiful for a week (EJB), and one was seen on 15 November (RZ). Flocks of Longspurs were seen at Castalia on 24 October (DK) and 5 November at Red Rock (GB, RM). There is one report of Snow Buntings, a small flock on 15 and 28 November (FK).

WINTER 1970-71

From most accounts, this winter has been as dull as last year's was interesting, with an almost total lack of northern visitors. Coupled with the absence of birds was weather which hardly was conducive to birding: freezing rains caused a sheet of ice to remain on the ground through most of December; a 14-inch snowfall the first of the year with most of it remaining until the "January thaw" at the end of the month; and then another 4-inch snow early in February. What appeared to be a sign of spring was Gladys Black's report of the arrival of 40 Canada Geese at Red Rock Refuge on 21 February, but the 22nd brought another 6-inch snow.

Reports which have been received include these comments: "Everything but Hairys and Downs are down" (EJB); "One feeder has large numbers of Siskins, Cardinals and Goldfinches, but nearby neighbors don't" (DMH); "A long, rough winter for the birds, causing Crows to come into the yard" (JK); "Not a sparrow in areas where great numbers were found formerly" (CJW). The following notes should be read in connection with the summary of the Christmas counts.

Grebes, Herons. A Pied-billed Grebe was at Camanche on 9 January (PP). Fred Kent was told of an immature Great Blue Heron found in mid-winter and which subsequently died.

Geese, Ducks. At Lock 14 on 24 December there were 30 Canadas (PP), and there were 24 at Rock Creek Lake early in January (MS). A male American Widgeon was at Camanche on 17 January with another sighting at Lock 14 on the 30th. Two Ring-necked were seen on 7 February. Canvasbacks were missed on the census, but were seen before and later. Scaups have not been as regular as usual. From 250 to 300 Common Goldeneyes were seen regularly. There were several observations of Oldsquaws at Bettendorf and Davenport (PP), and 1 at Red Rock (PDK). Hooded Mergansers were seen on 24 December and 17 January, and Common Mergansers were present regularly (PP).

Hawks, Eagles. There appear to be unusually high counts of Red-tailed with many immatures, Sparrow and Rough-legged (RS). Occasional Rough-legged are seen but they are fewer (JK). Bald Eagles are local and in reduced numbers in the Davenport area (PP) with one at Red Rock on 21 February (GB). Three Marsh Hawks are feeding at Red Rock as rising waters are driving out the mice (GB). Sparrow Hawks are scarce (KL), and have been fewer since the snow on 3 January (PP).

Quail, Pheasants. Four Coturnix quail were seen in December at Hamburg (EAG). No reports were received on the abundance of Bobwhites, but Ringnecked Pheasants have done very well (PP), and appear numerous in Polk Co.

Shorebirds, Gulls. Killdeers and Snipes were found in reduced numbers and only in sheltered spots after the snow on 3 January (PP). Gulls were found in good numbers through December, then moved out, with 20-40 Herring Gulls wintering. Two Glaucous Gulls were seen on 20 and 27 December at L. 14 (PP).

Doves, Owls, Woodpeckers. Mourning Doves are wintering in good numbers (PP), there are some at Woodward (RG), with a few reports in Polk Co. and a good flock coming to the feeder (HP). A Snowy Owl was seen near Jefferson (no date, fide JF). Long-eared are scarce (PP). Short-eared are mentioned more frequently

than usual: 18 in one soybean field (RS); several seen (JK); 1 in Lucas and 1 in Warren Co. on 14 December (PDK); 4 near Hudson on 15 December, seen by Mrs. Ehlers (fide RH); from 8-12 for six weeks in one area and smaller numbers in other fields (RLS); and good numbers (PP). No Yellow-shafted Flickers have been to the feeder since 2 Red-shafted appeared, but a Red-headed on 27 December was unusual (EAG).

Larks, Titmice, Nuthatches, Wrens. Horned Larks are numerous, but Titmice are scarce (RG). There were only three mentions of Red-breasted Nuthatches; 2 were seen in late November (LS); and they have been in Wyoming (ELM). The Davenport population has been very low (PP) with none reported from Des Moines. The Carolina Wren is continuing its comeback (PP), but with the amount of snow this winter may be as disastrous as the winter of 1961-62.

Mimics, Thrushes, Waxwings, Shrikes. A Mockingbird was seen at the end of January (RS), and another has been coming to a heated bird bath (RLS). There are few Robins reported; one was seen early in February with two reported at various times a little earlier (RB). When mentioned at all Waxwings and Shrikes were called scarce.

Warblers, Icterids. An Orange-crowned Warbler appeared at Lamoni on 15 December (GDeL), and one was found on the Cedar Rapids census.

Finches. Cardinals have been numerous with 25-30 around a corn crib (RG), and 50 or more at a deserted farm building, near Red Rock (GB). The only report of Evening Grosbeaks tells of 7 seen from 26-30 December (EB). Purple Finches appear fewer than usual in most areas, one exception being Lamoni with 40 (RS). In Estherville 7 were coming to a feeder (JBO). A single Redpoll appeared at Red Rock Refuge Headquarters on 1 February (CB). Siskins have been very scarce, 1-2 being seen at Davenport (PP). Juncos were considered way down (GB, 50 percent of normal (CJW), and up (RG). Tree Sparrows are down (JK, PP, GB). At Hamburg where Harris' Sparrows commonly winter, only 1 has been observed (EAG). There two reports of wintering White-throats: 2 banded (PP) and 1 coming to a feeder (RM). A wintering Swamp Sparrow on 9 January was unusual (PP). Longspurs were seen occasionally (JK), with one small flock near Des Moines on 12 January (DM), while numbers were seen through 3 January (PP). Some Snow Buntings were seen on 8 January only (JK) and 10-12 were observed in late December (PP).

In addition to the reports from the regular contributors, a gratifying number of notes of unusual observations have been received from other members. It is hoped these will continue and in increasing numbers.

Contributors: Ruth Binsfeld, Des Moines; Gladys Black, Pleasantville and Red Rock Refuge; Jean Braley, Shenandoah, Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Joe K. Brown, Des Moines; W. H. Brown, Des Moines; E. J. Bryant, Akron; Esther Coop, Wheatland; Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; John Faaborg, Ames; Mrs. E. A. Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Richard Guthrie, Woodward; Mrs. D. R. Hanna, Sioux City; R. M. Hays, Waterloo; Jim Keenan, Ogden; F. W. Kent, Iowa City; P. D. Kline, Indianola; Pearl Knopp, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Keith Layton, Oskaloosa; Mrs. E. L. Mayberry, Wyoming; Dick Mooney, Des Moines; Mrs. J. B. Osher, Estherville; Helen Peasley, Des Moines; Elizabeth Peck, Des Moines; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Mrs. R. L. Scott, Seymour; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Mrs. Ralph Silver, Lamoni; Mildred Stewart, Grinnell; C. F. Wolden, Wallingford; Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, 50312.

Notes for the June issue should be submitted not later than 20 May.

First Iowa Band-tailed Pigeon -- On September 5, 1970, a Band-tailed Pigeon, *Columba fasciata* Say, was observed seven miles West of Fort Dodge, Webster County, Iowa, on the farm of Joseph R. Crawford. This single Band-tailed Pigeon was fairly tame and could be approached within about fifteen feet. This bird first caught my attention by the fact that it lacked the typical white rump of a Rock Dove. Upon closer examination, I was able to see that this bird had a large, gray terminal tail band. I was also able to see a white band on the nape. A *Guide to Field Identification Birds of North America* by Robbins, Brunn and Zim was used to establish positive identification of this bird. According to Mr. Crawford, the bird came to his farm sometime during the summer and left in late September. The bird lived with a flock of about fifteen Rock Doves which are permanent residents of the farm. JOHN A. CRAWFORD, Dept. of Biology, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Nebraska.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Ringgold Co. - On May 8, 1970, while conducting a pheasant nest searching operation we observed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The bird was seen on the Mt. Ayr Public Hunting Area of the Iowa Conservation Commission in Ringgold Co. The habitat was old-field, rolling terrain with multiflora hedgerous interspersed and the light conditions were good. - KENNETH RUSSELL, Iowa Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit and LARRY D. WING, Fisheries and Wildlife Biology - Iowa State University, Ames.

Book Reviews

Ornithology in Laboratory and Field, Fourth edition -- Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. -- Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis -- 524p., many line drawings, charts, maps, diagrams, etc. -- 1970 -- \$11.95.

This book is essentially a fully updated revision of *A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology*, which was reviewed in *Iowa Bird Life*, Vol. 31 p. 95. The format has been altered and it now qualifies as a very complete ornithology text. The author covers the usual facets, topography, feathers and their tracts, anatomy and physiology, systematics, external structural characters, laboratory identification, plumages and plumage coloration, distribution, field identification, behaviour, migration, territory, song, mating, nests and nest building, eggs, egg laying and incubation, young and their development, parental care, longevity, populations, numbers, ancestry, evolution and decrease of birds. Of perhaps great value are the appendices which include a wealth of information on such subjects as photography, recording calls, banding, collecting, weighing and measuring birds, preparation of manuscript and a very fine list of life history studies, regional works, general references and ornithological journals. The references are current to 1969.

The new format makes this book even more essential as a cornerstone for a good ornithological library. Public libraries should have this volume on their shelves. -- ed.

A Guide To The Birds of South America -- Rodolphe Meyer de Schauensee -- Livingston Publishing Co., Wynnewood, Pa. -- 470p., 31 color plates, 19 black and white plates and many line drawings -- 1970 -- \$20.00.

Finally, between the covers of one book, a guide for identification of the largest group of birds inhabiting any continent. Since the book deals with over three times the number of species that a North American book covers the species accounts are

necessarily brief. They consist of the common name, latin name, length, description stressing diagnostic characteristics, and range. The plates represent at least one member of each family and cover 676 species. It is disappointing that twenty of the plates are those also found in *The Birds of Columbia*.

Since it is now easy to travel to South America, more and more birders are visiting these avifaunally rich areas. Now one has a guide which can be taken along without fear of over weight luggage as was necessary prior to this book. Anyone who has tried identification in a new area without a guide after being spoiled by our fine North American guides will fully appreciate the void that is filled by this book. -- ed.

A Field Guide To Australian Birds--Non Passerines -- Peter Slater -- Livingston Publishing Co., Wynnewood, Pa. -- 428 p., 43 color plates, 41 black and white plates, 47 figures and 396 range maps -- 1971 -- \$10.00.

A very well done guide, the first of two volumes which will give Australia field guide coverage comparable to our American guides. The plates are first, then the text, but both are completely cross-referenced. The text includes common and latin names, length, field characteristics with notes on females and immatures where their plumage is distinctive, voice, habitat and range. Although Slater did the plates and some of the text, he was assisted by eight other ornithologists who wrote other sections of the book which deal with their specialties. The continuity is very good with this diversity of authorship so this idea has strengthened the book. A unique feature is the nine pages of life size outlines of sea bird bills. Since these birds often die at sea and are washed up on beaches this feature should make the identification of these birds easier for the field student.

As in the preceding book this volume is also a boon to the air traveler as it can be easily transported on a long trip. Compliments again to a publisher who is taking the lead in aiding the traveling birder as well as people who wish to become more familiar with their own avifauna. -- ed.

Our Bird Friends and Foes -- William Atherton Dupuy -- Dover Publications, New York, New York. -- 328 p.; 48 line drawing -- 1969 -- paperbound -- \$2.00.

An interesting little book which covers twenty-four birds or groups of birds. The text is very basic, good for beginners in bird study primarily. The birds covered are all common, although not all are American. The style is a bit "dated" but the novice will get some good basic background from this volume. -- ed.

Songs of Eastern Birds -- Donald J. Borror -- Dover Publications, New York, New York -- one twelve inch record and 32 p. booklet with line drawings -- 1970 -- \$3.00.

A companion record to *Common Bird Songs*, reviewed in *Iowa Bird Life*, Vol. 38 p. 63. This record continues the presentation of the previous records with sixty more species, with groupings by increasing complexity. Most of the birds represented are common species, and a variety of songs is included for each. Many warblers, eighteen species to be exact, are included. Full data on location and a month for each example is given. Also included are spectrographs for many of the songs. Reference to these while hearing the record will enable one to become more familiar with the "written" form of birds song and make the spectrographs found in the Robbins guide more useful. Both the novice and the experienced can learn from these records. They are excellent for both school and public libraries. -- ed.

Portraits of Tropical Birds -- John S. Dunning -- Livingston Publishing Co., Wynnewood, Pa. -- 154 p., 76 color plates folio size -- 1970 -- \$20.00.

A beautiful collection of photographs of American tropical birds. The photographs were made using the technique of capturing the bird and placing it in

a photocell under controlled light conditions. This removes many of the variables which complicate the telephoto work necessary to get closeups, especially in the tropical rain forest habitat with its poor light conditions. Having been associated with this type of photography in our area minor defects in these pictures come to light. The most noticeable is the reflection of the lights in the eye of the subject. Mr. Dunning describes in detail his photo cell, certainly an aid to anyone wishing to use this fine technique. In fairness to the photographer it should be added that he had many more obstacles to overcome working in the high heat and humidity in an area with far less convenient power sources than we have in Iowa and his work is excellent considering these factors. Some of his plates appeared in the 1969 *Living Bird* from Cornell U. The text accompanying the plates is brief but gives one background information on the species and its family.

Since only a few of the tropical species are covered this book is not for field use. It may help as a reference for post field use as some of the birds included are not found among the available color illustrations in field guides. It would also prepare one planning a trip to the tropical areas for the diverse and beautiful birds they will encounter. -- ed.

NOW AVAILABLE

Hot off the press is a new book all Iowa bird students will want: **An Annotated List of the Birds of Iowa** by Woodward H. Brown. Since the last book on Iowa birds is now forty years out of date this eighty-two page book fills the void and gives us a very up to date reference source. For the more unusual species, specific dates are given but historical references are mentioned only briefly. The status of each species is given and for migrants early and late dates are included. Many I. O. U. members contributed to this book, and you will want to send one dollar to the treasurer today for your copy. -- ed.

Request For Gull Reports

During May through July of each year for a five year period, Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) from three Great Lakes colonies will be wing-marked with 1.5 inch-diameter "Saflag" tags. Each colony is represented by a specific color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population. Anyone observing such wing-marked gulls is asked to notify DR. WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Please report each observation of marked individuals even though the same bird may be sighted on different days. The following information is desired: **date, exact location, marker color, and the observer's name.** Your assistance in this aspect of the project will be greatly appreciated. Respondents will receive information pertaining to colony locations and the date of marking.

COVER

Our 1971 cover is reproduced from a water color by Brian Wheeler, a fifteen year old student from Bettendorf. Brian shows great promise, unfortunately for us his family will leave Iowa shortly in favor of Michigan. ed.